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LETTER DATED 18 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith text of the statement issued by the Government of Pakistan on the outbreak of hostilities in the Persian Gulf. I shall be grateful if this letter, along with its enclosure, could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jamsheed K. A. MARKER
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Annex

Text of the statement by the Government of Pakistan on the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf issued on 17 January 1991

"The Government and the people of Pakistan have been deeply shocked and anguished at the outbreak of hostilities between Iraq and the multinational forces. Pakistan had consistently called for a peaceful resolution to the crisis and is profoundly concerned that the efforts for a peaceful solution have failed.

Pakistan's position and that of the international community to seek an Iraqi withdrawal from the brotherly Muslim country of Kuwait has been based on upholding fundamental principles of international law and inter-state conduct. International peace, security and sovereign independence of small and vulnerable states depend on the respect of these principles which were reflected in the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, the OIC and the Arab League. It is regrettable that, in spite of the numerous appeals by world leaders, including the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Iraq could not be persuaded to agree to the withdrawal of its forces from Kuwait.

On its part, the Government of Pakistan has made a number of efforts to avert the conflict. In October, last year, Pakistan had joined five other Asian Islamic countries in calling upon President Saddam Hussein to withdraw Iraqi troops from Kuwait in the true Islamic spirit and for the unity and solidarity of the Ummah. The trilateral meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey held on 3rd of January 1991, had appealed for a peaceful solution to the crisis through the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council. The meeting had also requested the Secretary-General of the OIC to exert all efforts for a peaceful solution including the possibility of the holding of an emergency meeting of the OIC. Pakistan had also endorsed the call by Iran for the holding of an emergency Summit meeting of the OIC. The Prime Minister addressed messages to fourteen Heads of State/Government directly involved, impressing upon them the need to find a peaceful solution to the problem. The Prime Minister had also sent a direct appeal to President Saddam Hussein to implement UN Security Council resolutions and withdraw from Kuwait in order to achieve a peaceful resolution of the crisis and save the Muslim people of the region from a major conflagration.

The Government and the people of Pakistan are deeply distressed at the failure of sustained peace efforts and the outbreak of war which could be disastrous for the region and particularly for the Islamic countries. It is our hope that statesmanship will prevail and the conflict will be brought to an end quickly to save human lives and suffering and to give peace another chance. Pakistan stands ready to support and undertake all efforts to restore peace on the basis of principles and resolutions of the UN Security Council."